

Lesson Plan for Year 1, Lesson 19

- Aim**
- a. to understand some of the Covenant
 - b. to learn more about the exile of Bahá'u'lláh

Objectives

After fully participating in both the lesson and the homework, the student should be able to:

- a. say that God always guides us
- b. state our promise to God: know Bahá'u'lláh and obey His laws
- c. explain the ways in which Bahá'u'lláh travelled in exile

Materials

Magnet, paper clip and paper plate (see 9.)

Printed sheets for each student to make booklet; wool, buttons, narrow red ribbon, seeds, etc. and something to make holes in centre of paper.

1. Game/News – Game: Fruit salad
Go round the circle giving each child the name of a fruit e.g. apple, pear, orange, banana; halfway round the circle start repeating the fruit so that each fruit has been given to two students (if you have an odd number, one fruit will have been given to three.) When you call a fruit those children change places. When you call fruit salad, they all change.
2. Mark Homework
3. Virtue – Unity
EITHER use ¼ of what is in The Virtues Guide,
OR use quotations in the virtue handout, which can then be taken home..
4. New Topic – Nature and Purpose of Covenants
[There is more material in “The Covenant for Young People”, e.g. pp.2-7.]
A covenant is an agreement between 2 parties, each promising to do something for the other. We have a covenant with God. God promises never to leave us without guidance; in the Bahá'í Faith He provided guidance through Bahá'u'lláh, ‘Abdu'l-Bahá, Shoghi Effendi and now the Universal House of Justice to keep us united. Our promise to God is in 2 parts, 1: to know Bahá'u'lláh is a teacher from God, and 2: to obey the laws and teachings of Bahá'u'lláh. Both parts of our promise are important.
5. Writings – *Compilation of Compilations*, p.113, #214.
“Great is thy blessedness inasmuch as thou hast been faithful to the Covenant of God and His Testament... Dedicate thyself to the service of the Cause of thy Lord...”
Bahá'u'lláh, Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 262.
6. Activity – Make booklet about the Covenant.
[If you can manage to print or photocopy the pages back-to-back, that would be good, otherwise stick them together in pairs; in either case make sure that pages 2 and 7 are on the back of pages 8 and 1, and 4 and 5 are on the back of pages 6 and 3.]
First give students the sheet with page 6 on it, as that is for gluing; draw a face and glue on wool for hair, buttons for eyes, narrow red ribbon for mouth, seeds for nose and ears. While the glue is drying, pages 2 and 7 can be coloured.
[The booklet will be completed later.]

7. Music – Sing “Beside the Tigris” (Ancient Beauty tape.)

8. New Topic – Exiles and Apostles, of Bahá’u’lláh.

Story:

Bahá’u’lláh chose to ride on a donkey in Baghdad. When He started the journey to Constantinople He rode a horse and wore a sort of crown (tall beautifully embroidered hat). These were two signs of His divine authority. What had happened in Baghdad for Bahá’u’lláh to show these signs?

Most of the journey Bahá’u’lláh travelled in a howdah, a fully enclosed seat fixed on a horse, but when approaching a village or town He would get back on His horse to meet the important people who usually came to greet Him. Jináb-Munib walked all the way, often chanting prayers, and was a close companion of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá on that journey. Some nights the 2 of them would walk, one to either side of Bahá’u’lláh’s howdah, and Jináb-Munib would sing poems, making a joy that defies description.

9. Activity

Remind students of their second duty by analogy with something following a magnet. Place a paper clip on a paper plate and hold a magnet under the plate. Pretend that the power of God is the magnet and the paper clip is a person (it could be bent into a person shape). Move the magnet. What happens to the clip? This is how God wants us to obey His laws. The clip person moves right away without thinking. Is he complaining, taking time to decide? Does he ever not obey the magnet? (No) We should all obey God like this – right away, with love and cheerfulness.

10. Writings

The rôle of Beauty, especially: the beauty of creation and truth, [enhance spirituality] Ask students to name beautiful things that God has created, write them on the board. Point out that other things are also beautiful, things we cannot see. When people tell lies and do nasty things, we don’t like it. While this is going on, we meet someone who is polite and always tells the truth – this can be described as beautiful. Bahá’u’lláh explains how God asked Him to reflect the beauty of God (by displaying virtues such as truthfulness and courtesy) – this is why He is sometimes called the ‘Blessed Beauty’:

“enrich Thyself... with the incorruptible vestures of Thy God, that the beauteous image of the Almighty may be reflected through Thee...”

Bahá’u’lláh, *Bahá’í World Faith*, p.111.

11. Activity

Complete the booklet by placing sheets together (one sheet on table with pages 2 & 7 showing, other sheet with pages 4 & 5 showing is placed on top of it), folding them both in half and joining at the fold e.g. by making 3 or 4 holes along it, threading wool through them and tying in a knot or bow. (Pages 3, 4 and 5 could be coloured at home.)

12. Revision of this lesson

Start by reading the text of the booklet, explaining how the picture on each page suits the text.

13. Set Homework

Show the booklet to family and friends and colour any pictures not yet done. [There is no other handout today.]